

Puget Sound TRT
Twenty-First Meeting – Tuesday, December 18, 2001
Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Room 370W

TRT Members Present: Mary Ruckelshaus, Kit Rawson, Norma Sands, Ken Currens, Bill Graeber, Bob Fuerstenberg, Jim Doyle, Elizabeth Babcock, Jim Scott (left early)

TRT Members Absent: none

Visitors: Paul McElhany, Juliet Fabbri, Gary Graves, Dave Montgomery, Brian Collins, Beth Sanderson, Lisa Holsinger, Margaret Duncan, Derek Poon, Fred Goetz, Tom Mumford, Jim Kramer, Helen Golde

Population Viability Issues

- Population viability criteria. **Norma Sands** updated the TRT on Friday's (12/13-14) productive session with Dell Simmons, Kit Rawson and Jim Scott. Corrected and updated A&P tables with documentation will be posted on Docushare shortly. 3 methods for determining exploitation rates were identified for 3 types of data sets. The results will be used in correcting for harvest in SimSalmon and in VRAP. The TRT commented that it will be useful to convey the limitations of the data at any time the data are made publicly available. **Norma Sands** will go through each pop and evaluate exploitation rates and compare results in model runs accounting/not accounting for harvest.
- Sigma-squared. **Kit Rawson** presented preliminary results on sigma-squared values for north sound populations: adjusted and unadjusted for hatchery and harvest. The goal is to get better exploitation rates, to adjust for harvest accurately, all to get better sigma-squared values to use in viability analyses. **Jim Scott** and **Kit Rawson** will meet the first week in January to work on sigma-squared for the Green, NF Nooksack, S Prairie, Dungeness and the Skagit. The TRT will need to revisit soon the issue of generic vs. population-specific approaches for estimating and using sigma-squared in SimSalmon and how mu is defined.
- Population viability results. The **viability work group** will bring results from additional populations in estimating sigma squared and Nmin to the January TRT meeting. At that point, we will discuss concretely what the remaining schedule is for completing viability results for chinook populations in Puget Sound. The TRT needs to **produce a revised "blue paper"**—the summary write-up of our planning ranges and ESU-wide guidelines for the end of Sept. Shared Strategy retreat—**by the week of Jan. 14th** to give to the SS staff group.
- Co-manager analyses. **Jim Scott** reported the schedule for populations and technical analyses will hopefully be done by the end of December including coordination with co-managers from Nooksack, Skagit, Stillaguamish, Snohomish, Puyallup, and Hood Canal.
- Estimates of juvenile productivity. Correigh Green from the center might be able to help out with interpreting implications of marine survival estimates, since he is working on a life-cycle model of chinook.

Shared Strategy update

- Judge Hogan is looking for a statement from NMFS about recovery planning so other watershed and planning groups can know what to expect in re: expectations from NMFS for recovery goals. The TRT does not support a generic number for all geographic areas because of the progress made with the Shared Strategy group in Puget Sound. Mary and Paul told NMFS Regional Administrator Bob Lohn that viability criteria will be out by April from the PS and WLC TRTs. The group discussed concerns about releasing interim goals from NMFS in Puget Sound, where the progress and process of the Shared Strategy would be disrupted by such an announcement.

- The Shared Strategy staff group needs the revised “blue paper”, including a list of populations/planning ranges and a schedule for additional populations by the week of January 14 to help produce their planning ranges.

Snohomish Case Study and Explaining Planning Ranges

Kit Rawson handed out an agenda for the January 10 Snohomish Case Study Workshop with the Syntech committee (local watershed policy and technical synthesis group). The Shared Strategy staff group requested this session to find out how effective the communication of the planning ranges and recovery goals is and to determine whether this motivates the watershed groups to focus their recovery planning on the goals set by the TRT/Shared Strategy. The TRT discussed the necessity of explaining planning ranges simply. **Jim Scott** will initiate discussing this over email before the 10th.

Finalizing Population Identification Document

The TRT discussed the map details: spawning areas and watershed and population boundaries and how best to represent them on the map, south sound historic chinook runs, the spatial structure of south sound, and Hood Canal populations. Hood Canal will be revisited at the next TRT meeting and this will be the last chance for new information for the PopID document. **Bob Fuerstenberg** will run hydro analyses for the next TRT meeting to see if there are other non-biological features (in addition to catchment area) that might distinguish watersheds that could have historically supported independent populations from those that couldn't/didn't.

Update on Historical Habitat Analyses in Puget Sound

Brian Collins and **Dave Montgomery** updated the TRT on their mapping project of Puget Sound (~1800-2000), most likely to be completed in part by June 2002. They are looking for funding to continue their work.

Nearshore and Estuarine Research Projects

Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) **Fred Goetz** and **Tom Mumford** presented their project to the TRT. The project involves conducting nearshore assessments and creating/implementing recovery projects. The project is still in the beginning phases, and their first tasks are to (1) identify guiding ecological principles and (2) determine data gaps and research needs. The TRT and PSNERP will continue to discuss how they will/can work together.

RSRP: January meeting and general discussion about interactions with RSRP

The TRT discussed frustrations about recent RSRP documents--untimely releases, uncertain role of the RSRP, and how to work better with the RSRP in the future including: Fact-checking/review of RSRP documents before they are publicly posted, focus questions for each meeting, and clearly stated expectations of the RSRP (ie-what the TRT is looking for answers to). The TRT will hand a list of bulleted points of what the TRT expects from the RSRP at the January meeting, to be followed-up with a letter before the March meeting. The TRT has until **Thursday** to comment/edit focus questions for the next meeting. **Mary** will work on the background note to include with the background information mailing.

ESU-wide issues

- Monitoring. **Ken Currens** discussed monitoring and how the TRT should think more about including it in planning ranges or population viability criteria. **Jim Scott** and **Ken Currens** will work with Steve Katz and Chris Jordan (Center) to put together a draft list of monitoring needs relating to viability criteria and identifying steps to take. The TRT agreed to include

monitoring criteria in every document it puts out. **Ken Currens** will write a short letter to the Shared Strategy describing parameters.

- Geographic regions of significance. **Bob Fuerstenberg** provided a handout describing his guidelines for geographic areas that the TRT can use to “spread the risk” and encourage local adaptation in choosing scenarios of ESU viability. Please email comments to Bob before **January 3rd**, since he will use this write-up as the basis for his presentation to the RSRP.

Lisa Holsinger updated the TRT on spawning area and spawner capacity calculations in the Stillaguamish R. She doesn’t have enough reference site data to do the historic analysis and she needs more data to do an accurate current analysis. The Skagit data and results are still good. Lisa will be moving to Montana at the first of the year, and will continue to work on the project via tele-commuting.

General Business

- Upcoming TRT meetings.
 - ❖ January 15th and 16th --Mary will solicit agenda items and see if we need 2 days. In the meantime, assume the meeting is 2 days.
 - ❖ January 28th afternoon and evening meeting with the Shared Strategy to discuss TRT work plan and how the 2 teams work together ***let Mary know right away if you can’t make it!**
- The TRT will discuss Hood Canal and Lake Ozette at the January meeting
- **Jim Doyle** will be resigning from the TRT and he will work with the planning/recovery teams he now works with to facilitate better communications with the TRT.